



PALMDALE

a place to call home

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Councilmember

May 22, 2007

Ms. Tracie Billington and Mr. Scott Couch
California Department of Water Resources
Division of Planning and Local Assistance
1416 Ninth Street, Room 1115-1
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

Dear Ms. Billington and Mr. Scott Couch:

**PUBLIC REVIEW DRAFT PROPOSITION 50 CHAPTER 8 INTEGRATED
REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT (IRWM) GRANT PROGRAM
GUIDELINES AND PROPOSAL SOLICITATION PACKAGES (PSPS) FOR
ROUND 2**

The City of Palmdale is a member of the Antelope Valley Regional Water Management Group (AVRWMG), which is a coalition of eleven public agencies. The current IRWM grant program provided the Antelope Valley with a valuable incentive for bringing together a wide range of stakeholders from federal, state, county, and local government; water agencies and companies; environmental groups; disadvantaged communities; and private businesses. This process has brought partners together who had previously not had the opportunity to work collectively and has led to a new level of cooperation and joint planning by many local and regional entities through the Antelope Valley.

The stakeholders in the Antelope Valley are diligently developing an IRWM Plan that addresses the water resource related challenges in the Valley to position themselves to receive Propositions 50, 84, and 1E funds for their integrated regional strategies and solutions. The stakeholder process is well on the way towards completion of the Draft IRWM Plan for public review by June 2007 and adoption of the IRWM Plan by December 2007.

We offer the following comments and recommendations to improve the IRWM guidelines and PSPs:

Auxiliary aids provided for

communication accessibility


upon 72 hours' notice and request.

- We support the proposed Round 2 schedule that completes final approval of grant awards by June 2008. We believe that the schedule adequately reflects State Water Resources Control Board's decision on March 20, 2007 to expedite the Round 2 grant program implementation. It will also help the State expediently implement the recently approved Propositions 84 and 1E.
- We support the simplified two-step process with specific emphasis on the IRWM Plan and project proposal in Step 1 and Step 2, respectively.
- We recommend that the State reduce the maximum grant amount of \$25 million per region to \$15 million. We believe that would help disperse the funds more equitably, benefiting more regions in the State.

We understand that the Round 1 grant application process was very costly and time consuming due to a significant amount of redundancies between both steps. We appreciate that the State recognized the problem and proposed a solution to it. We also appreciate the opportunity to provide our comments and recommendations for the State's consideration in developing the grant program guidelines and look forward to working with the State to address our local water resources issues.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (661) 267-5300.

Sincerely,



Leon E. Swain
Director of Public Works

LES/glp

C: Stephen H. Williams, City Manager